

U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center  
ATTN: Veteran Survey Coordinator  
950 Soldiers Drive  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5021

Cold War Era Service Survey Questionnaire

This questionnaire seeks to document the recollections and opinions of Cold War era veterans of the United States Army. The purpose of this survey is to preserve and make available your Army history to researchers and historians so that the history of the Cold War era veteran can be told.

Your responses are important to researchers and historians. For that reason, the questionnaire is rather lengthy. If the questionnaire does not give you enough space to answer, or if you wish to address a question not specifically asked, please use a continuation sheet.

**Please note that this questionnaire may be answered by anyone who served in the Army during the Post-Vietnam Cold War Era (1975-1989) regardless of duty location.**

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**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

**AUTHORITY:** 10 U.S.C., Secretary of the Army; AR 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies and Procedures; and 16 U.S.C. 470, National Historic Preservation Act.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** Information provided will be used to document your opinions and recollections as a Cold War Era veteran. Additionally, the information may be used for historical studies of the U.S. Army.

**ROUTINE USES:** None. The "Blanket Routine Uses" set forth at the beginning of the Army's Compilations of System of Records Notices apply to this system.

**DISCLOSURE:** Voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may preclude your recollections and opinions being documented in the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's Cold War Era Service Survey.

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**Donations**

USAHEC accepts donations of items of significant historical interest, which include personal papers, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, memoirs, photographs, correspondence with family and friends, camp and unit newspapers, regulations and manuals, unit histories, and certain other books, professional military journals, maps, personal equipment, weapons, soldier art and unit insignia.

☐ **I do not have any historical material that I would like to donate**

☐ **I wish to donate unconditionally the following items to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center:**

☐ Audio tapes      ☐ Books      ☐ Camp/unit newspapers      ☐ CD/DVD  
☐ Diaries      ☐ Documents      ☐ Films/Videos      ☐ Insignia/patches  
☐ Letters      ☐ Maps      ☐ Memoirs      ☐ Periodicals  
☐ Photographs      ☐ Artifacts, equipment, uniforms, etc. (Please call the Army Heritage Museum Director @ 717-245-4364 or AHEC-AHM@carlisle.army.mil for disposition instructions or provide a phone number so that we may contact you. Phone number \_\_\_\_\_)

I understand that in donating items to the U.S. Army, I must make an unconditional gift and relinquish all rights and claims to them. I agree that I will complete the necessary paperwork to document my gift and that the USAHEC may not return gifts once made, to myself or my heirs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Personal/Background Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Highest rank or grade held \_\_\_\_\_  
Present address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of service \_\_\_\_\_  
Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE**

**Please feel free to use continuation sheets wherever necessary.**

**Initial Entry**

How did you enter military service?

1. Drafted. Date entered service \_\_\_\_\_ Date left service \_\_\_\_\_
1. Enlisted. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_ Place enlisted \_\_\_\_\_
2. National Guard called to Federal service. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Term of svc \_\_\_\_\_
3. Army Reserve called to active duty. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Term of svc \_\_\_\_\_
4. Commissioned. Source of commission \_\_\_\_\_ Where and when \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you join the military? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did any other member of your family serve in the military? If so, please indicate the service:

U.S. Army \_\_\_ U.S. Navy \_\_\_ U.S. Marine Corps \_\_\_ U.S. Air Force \_\_\_ U.S. Coast Guard

What was the person's relationship to you, and when did s/he serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Brother \_\_\_\_\_ Sister \_\_\_\_\_ Other Relative \_\_\_\_\_

How did that person or tradition of family service affect your decision to join the military?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was your civilian occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Did it have any bearing on your Army assignment? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How useful was your civilian occupation to you while in the Army? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was your initial reaction upon entering military service? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What information did the Army give you about what duty would be like? How was it presented (e.g., films, pamphlets, briefings, etc)? What was your reaction? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you also serve in WWII? \_\_\_ Korea? \_\_\_ Lebanon? \_\_\_ Dominican Republic? \_\_\_ Vietnam \_\_\_? Other "hot spots?" \_\_\_ How did your prior combat service prepare you for Cold War service? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Training**

Please list the training that you received, as applicable:

	Place	Dates
___ Basic	_____	_____
___ AIT	_____	_____
___ Airborne	_____	_____
___ Ranger	_____	_____
___ Special Forces	_____	_____
___ Aviation	_____	_____
___ Language	_____	_____
___ Other (specify)	_____	_____

Why did you seek or receive specialized training? \_\_\_\_\_

How well did your training prepare you for your subsequent assignments? \_\_\_\_\_

What additional specialized training did you receive upon arrival to your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Assignments** (Please list "split" assignments during same tour if it applies)

Co/Btry/Trp served in	Dates assigned	Location	Commanded by
_____	_____	_____	_____
Of Battalion/Squadron		Location	Commanded by
_____		_____	_____
Of Regiment		Location	Commanded by
_____		_____	_____
Of Division		Location	Commanded by
_____		_____	_____

Duty Position \_\_\_\_\_

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> assignment (if applicable)***

Co/Btry/Trp served in	Dates assigned	Location	Commanded by
_____	_____	_____	_____
Of Battalion/Squadron		Location	Commanded by
_____		_____	_____

Of Regiment _____	Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Division _____	Location _____	Commanded by _____

Duty Position \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>rd</sup> assignment** (if applicable)

Co/Btry/Trp served in _____	Dates assigned _____	Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Battalion/Squadron _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Regiment _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Division _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____

Duty Position \_\_\_\_\_

*Please use a continuation sheet if you had more than 3 assignments*

**General Military Life**

What were your opinions of the equipment, clothing, weapons, and rations that you were issued? Any problems/defects or successes/strengths?

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What did you think about conditions in the Army; for example, pay, food, barracks or housing, medical coverage, etc.?

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In your opinion, were awards and decorations distributed fairly? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Leadership**

Who was the most important or influential leader, to you, personally, and why?

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What did you think of Army leadership above your unit level? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did officers commissioned through various sources (service academies, ROTC, OCS, National Guard, direct commission) compare? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did those officers or NCOs with prior combat experience (WWII, Korea, Vietnam) compare with those who had not served in earlier conflicts?

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How often did you see your senior leaders - those at least two command levels above you? What were the visits like? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you think of military discipline in your unit and throughout the Army at the time (lax, moderate, fair, strict, harsh)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any instances of particularly good or bad leadership which you experienced:\_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any instances of violence directed against leaders that you were aware of \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any cases of AWOL or desertion that you were aware of:\_\_\_\_\_

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How would you describe the morale of your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you think that the morale of your unit was that way? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **Cold War Specific Training and Exercises**

What information did the Army provide about the Soviet Union's intentions?\_\_\_\_\_

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What was your perception of the Communist threat during your tenure in the army? Did you believe the Army equipment and training was superior to the that of the Soviets?

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What training did you receive on using and/or defending against nuclear, biological and chemical weapons?

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Did you participate in any large-scale maneuver exercises?

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Did you believe these training exercises were realistic?

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Did you attend any of the Combat Readiness Training Centers either in the Unites States or abroad? If so, which ones? Describe your experience and impressions.

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Did you and your unit participate in "alerts" which simulated the Army's response to communist aggression? Describe.

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Were there any 'real-world' events that impacted the calling of 'alerts'? Describe.

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Were you confident in your unit's ability to deter/destroy Soviet aggression?

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Did you ever operate with allies (Korean, West German, Italian, Japanese, etc.) in the field? If so, please comment on their effectiveness, as well as any special procedures used to facilitate those operations. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Civil-Military Relations**

How well did you and your fellow soldiers get along with civilians in the US during training? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you were assigned stateside, what were relations with the civilian population like? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you were stationed overseas, what were relations with the civilian population like? What was their reaction to our involvement in their country? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you and your unit members do during your off time? \_\_\_\_\_

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Did you come into contact with any media reporters or representatives? If so, please describe your experience \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Peacekeeping, Contingency, and Combat Operations**

What operations or combat actions did you take part in?

Tour dates	Unit	Operations/Combat Action
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Please describe or comment on any combat or non-combat operations which you participated in. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your first experience in combat and your reaction to that experience. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe a "typical" day when your unit was committed to combat or non-combat operations. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate your unit's combat performance and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you were ever wounded, please comment on the circumstances, quality of medical system, thoughts about returning to your unit/combat, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal/Unit Experiences**

Describe your most memorable experience as a soldier (Please feel free to attach additional sheets). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any experiences that stand out that you would describe as "good" or "bad". \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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Did your unit experience any of the following? Please check all that apply:

- ☐ Excessive Drinking (on or off duty)
- ☐ Drug use
- ☐ Gambling
- ☐ Racial or ethnic problems/confrontations
- ☐ Theft
- ☐ Venereal disease
- ☐ Violence against superiors

Please describe the circumstances of particular incidents. \_\_\_\_\_

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Were any members of the opposite sex in units in which you served? Please describe the degree of cohesion and/or tension produced in mixed gender units.

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How effective was your chain of command in detecting, deterring and treating drug offenders?

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Was your unit awarded any citations? If so, please list and give circumstances.

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Were there any important events or visits that your unit experienced (USO show, visit from a VIP, an Army sporting event, etc.)?

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What slang words or phrases, both military and non-military, do you remember as being popular during your service? Songs or music?

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If you served more than one tour overseas, please describe any differences in the types of missions, troop morale, military effectiveness, leadership, relationship with the local people, etc. from one tour to another.

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**End of Tour/End of Service**

What was it like returning home? \_\_\_\_\_

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Did you remain in the service? If so, where did you serve after that? \_\_\_\_\_

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If discharged, what did you do after your discharge? \_\_\_\_\_

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What difficulties did you or anyone you know experience upon returning home?

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If you went to college or trade school under the GI Bill after your service, please name the school \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Did you join the National Guard or Reserve after active service? If so, why?

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Did you join any national or unit veterans' groups? If so, please describe your experience. \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your opinion as to the accuracy of any histories/articles/shows about units, campaigns or operations in which you belonged/participated in?

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Are there any questions that we haven't asked or any other issues that you'd like to address?

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**Summary Survey** - Please circle the appropriate response for each question.

1	2	3	4	5
disagree strongly	disagree somewhat	neutral	agree somewhat	agree strongly
During my Cold War service, I believed our army could fight and win against the Soviet army.				
1	2	3	4	5
During my Cold War service, I believed the American people supported the army's mission and actions.				
1	2	3	4	5
During my Cold War service, I believed the army treated individuals fairly - regardless of race or gender.				
1	2	3	4	5
I look back on my service during the Cold War with personal pride.				
1	2	3	4	5

If you have materials relating to your Army experience to donate, we would be grateful if you would use the postage-paid label to send these materials along with your completed questionnaire. If you would like more information about what we are seeking or have additional donations, please feel free to call or write.

Our address is shown at the top of the questionnaire. You may reach us by phone at (717)-245-3971, or you may visit our Website: <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/>. Thank you for your service, and your assistance in telling the Army story, one soldier at a time.